

**Introduced by Committee on Veterans Affairs (Senators Correa (Chair), Berryhill, Calderon, Cannella, Lieu, Negrete McLeod, Rubio, and Runner)**

May 25, 2011

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Senate Joint Resolution No. 8—Relative to TRICARE cost increases.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 8, as introduced, Committee on Veterans Affairs. TRICARE cost increases.

This measure would urge the United States Congress to take the necessary steps to ensure that Congress itself has the sole authority to determine future TRICARE cost increases, and base any future TRICARE cost changes, including pharmaceutical copays, on cost-of-living adjustments (COLA), as determined by the United States Department of Labor and given to all recipients who normally get this COLA.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Uniformed service members and their families  
2 endure unique and extraordinary demands and sacrifices protecting  
3 freedoms for all Americans; and  
4 WHEREAS, The extent of these demands is never so evident  
5 as during times of war; and  
6 WHEREAS, The primary offset for enduring these extraordinary  
7 sacrifices is a system of benefits, including healthcare coverage,  
8 titled TRICARE that a grateful nation provides for those who  
9 choose to subordinate their personal life to the national interest;  
10 and

1 WHEREAS, TRICARE For Life (TFL) serves as Medicare  
2 wraparound coverage for TRICARE beneficiaries who are entitled  
3 to Medicare Part A and who have Medicare Part B coverage; and

4 WHEREAS, The only exceptions are active duty service  
5 members, US Family Health Plan enrollees, TRICARE Reserve  
6 Select enrollees, and TRICARE Retired Reserve enrollees; and

7 WHEREAS, TFL costs are proposed to be increased by the  
8 United States Department of Defense with little basis-in-fact for  
9 the percentage increase; and

10 WHEREAS, This increase and the basis for the increase is under  
11 considerable debate by all veterans organizations; now, therefore,  
12 be it

13 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*  
14 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature urges the United States  
15 Congress to take the necessary steps to ensure that Congress itself  
16 has the sole authority to determine future TRICARE cost increases,  
17 and base any future TRICARE cost changes, including  
18 pharmaceutical copays, on cost-of-living adjustments (COLA), as  
19 determined by the United States Department of Labor and given  
20 to all recipients who normally get this COLA; and be it further

21 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
22 this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United  
23 States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Majority  
24 Leader of the Senate, each Senator and Representative from  
25 California in the Congress of the United States, and to the author  
26 for appropriate distribution.